

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

An Indian Who Served in the
Largest Recognition.

Congress Will Take Some Action With
regard to the Tariff and Silver Questions.
—Indiana Postmaster Commissioned—Notes—Personal.

Special to the Sentinel.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23.—Senator Voorhees, Judge Holman and Colonel Matton to-day visited both the Treasury and Postoffice Departments in the interest of Hon. E. B. Henderson. Judge Holman said: "I am quite sure that we will secure a place for Mr. Henderson—one of rank and one that will be thoroughly agreeable." As a matter of fact, Mr. Henderson declined several offers, or rather the Indiana delegation declined for him, feeling that his services were entitled to the largest recognition. He might have been provided with a foreign appointment, but the Indiana delegation preferred a place for him in this city, and would not entertain the idea of his going so far away.

Senator Camden, Virginia, said to-day: "I think we are going to have quite a working session." He did not think the Republican party would oppose Mr. Cleveland's nomination. The Democrats were coming to the aid of the President's administration.

Indiana Postmaster Commissioned—Star Route Changes—Personal.
WASHINGTON, Nov. 23.—Postmaster's commissions were issued to the following Indiana to-day: William W. Day, Goodview; John O. Howell, Newnam; James W. McGrew, Milroy; Floyd Turley, Silverville. The following change was to-day made in the star-route mail service affecting Indiana: Idelwild to Corydon, leave Idelwild, Tuesday, and Saturdays at 9:30 a. m., arrive at Corydon by 12 m., leave Corydon, Tuesday, and Saturdays at 1 p. m., arrive at Idelwild, by 3:30 p. m.

Hon. Richard Hunsdon will leave for home to-morrow afternoon.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS.
He Holds That the Homestead Law Is Intended Only for Settlers of Limited Means—Report of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22.—Commissioner Sparks has recently made a ruling which is probably destined to have an important influence upon the course of transactions in public lands. He has decided, in substance, that the consummation of a homestead is in effect and in law a turning of the entry into a pre-emption, and as such is illegal when the claimant has previously had the benefit of the pre-emption law. Since the passage of the homestead law it has become the almost universal practice for settlers to take claims under both this and the pre-emption act. It has been customary to take up the pre-emption and "tree claim" at once, and after the lapse of the shortest necessary interval to mortgage the former for enough to pay the Government price of it, when the second claim, a homestead, is taken up. The homestead law is intended to give the settler the right to secure either a pre-emption or a homestead in addition to his "tree claim," and as far as the ruling itself goes, leaves him the right to secure a pre-emption claim in the usual way, and then take a homestead by living upon the land for five years.

It has been stated that he has made a ruling to the effect that no person is entitled to the benefits of both the pre-emption and the homestead laws. This is incorrect. No such ruling has been made. There is reason to believe, however, that when this question comes before him, he will deny a demand for a formal ruling, he will hold that in the passage of the homestead law Congress intended only to give a choice to settlers of limited means by affording them a method of obtaining land without the necessity of the payment of the customary fees in place of purchasing under the pre-emption laws. Such a ruling, he says, would be in accordance with the views which have inspired the movement for the repeal of the pre-emption law outright, and should the timber-culture law be repealed, would have the effect of restricting the area of land open for settlement to the homestead law, and the two laws—the homestead and the pre-emption—standing together, and interpreted as they have heretofore been, offer a temptation to fraud, and place a premium upon it. The hope of securing a second claim is held out by the Government as an inducement to make the settlement and improvement upon the first. General Sparks holds that if Congress designed to give the same settler the benefit of both laws, it would not have imposed upon him the requirements to establish a temporary home in one place only, to be abandoned for another within a few months. Should the ruling indicated as probable never be made, that already made prohibiting commutation of homestead claims by persons who have previously been in possession of land, the result would be an important result in preventing speculation in claims. The object to live five years upon a claim is a test of good faith, and the only actual fact that the settler has to show is that he has cultivated the land for his own cultivation will care to submit.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE.

The annual report of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue shows that the total receipts from internal revenue taxation for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1885, were \$112,421,122, as compared with \$121,560,039 for the same period last year. There are now about 7,000,000 gallons of distilled spirits stored in the country, and it is estimated that the total for the current fiscal year would aggregate at least \$115,000,000. A table giving the receipts during the last two fiscal years shows that there was a decrease of \$6,394,177 in the collections on spirits, and an increase of \$344,088 on tobacco.

THE LAND PAINTED RED

Reported Massacre of Wounded Prisoners by
the Bulgarians.

Heavy Losses by the Servians in the Late
Battle—A Battle Was Fought at Widin
Yesterday, But Without
a Decisive Result.

Belgrade, Nov. 22.—The Servian losses on the 17th, 18th and 19th insts. included eleven officers killed and twenty-two wounded. Emperor Francis Joseph, in compliance with the request of Queen Natalie, has granted permission to doctors of the Austrian Red Cross society to go to Servia. A dispatch from Tzaribrod says that the Bulgarians have massacred the Servian Lieutenant Kokitch, who was found on the field of battle wounded, and the Servian Lieutenants Schivliko and Ratkovich, who were prisoners of war. General Lesjanin telegraphs that the Bulgarian troops, which had been fighting in the field near Widin, have been enclosed in the fortress of that town, and that the entire district between the Timok and Lom, on the Danube, has been cleared of Bulgarian troops.

Belgrade, Nov. 22.—The Servians have been besieged Widin. A battle was fought to-day, which was without decisive result. The Porte has proposed an armistice. It is reported that Prince Alexander is unwilling to listen to the proposal until he has driven the Servians from Bulgaria.

London, Nov. 23.—The Constantinople correspondent of the Daily News says that the Turkish Government has warned King Milan to withdraw his troops from Bulgaria, or Turkish troops will invade Servia. The Servian Government has appointed a commission to proceed to the seat of war, and inquire into the reported killing of a Servian prisoner by Bulgarian troops. The Servian Minister here has received no information regarding the reported armistice between Bulgaria and Servia.

Sofia, Nov. 22.—Diplomatic representatives here have been forbidden to send cipher telegrams. After a stiff battle this afternoon, the Servians were driven out of Dragoman Pass by the Bulgarians, who then occupied the Pass.

London, Nov. 22.—The Government has prohibited the publication of news of the movements of Greek troops or military preparations. A decree has been issued closing the numerous channels of the coast of Greece during torpedo practice. The troops on the frontier are impatient to advance.

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It was rumored here to-day that Turkish troops had had a skirmish with Greeks. The rumor was subsequently declared to be untrue. There are now 25,000 Turkish troops on the Balkan Peninsula.

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INDIANA SPECIALS.
Martford City Items.

HARTFORD CITY, Ind., Nov. 23.—Saturday afternoon a carpenter at this city named Al Algernon was arrested on a charge of grand larceny preferred by Mrs. Smith, a dress maker of this city. It seems she had lost \$35 together with some notes near where Algernon was at work. She charged him with having found the same. He stoutly denied it. The officers came and arrested him. He then released and went down in his boat and secured the hidden treasure and gave it to Mrs. Algernon, and has been escorted to jail on the charge above specified.

A new paper is to be started in this city of Republican tendencies, under the management of George L. Huff, a two-time ex-prisoner of this place. It will be called the Hartford City Times.

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Muncie, Ind., Nov. 23.—An interesting criminal case is now on trial in the Circuit Court here, the same being the case of the State vs. Breckenridge Reynolds. The defendant was arrested for making a false return of his personal property to the Assessor who called upon him in the spring of 1884. Mr. Reynolds is about seventy years of age and is the owner of a fine farm of 300 acres of the best land in the county, and with his \$18,000 worth of personal property, is one of the wealthiest men in the county. His trial is watched with much interest.

A Brilliant Social Event.
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FOUR WAYS, Ind., Nov. 23.—This evening a sentimental representative attended a pleasant party at the residence of Charles A. Munson, Aide-Camp on the staff of Governor Gray, who was presented with a magnificent gold badge studded with diamonds, the gift of his political friends. The presentation was the occasion of the gathering of the leading Democrats of the city, and fully evoked the good will of his constituents. Mr. Munson, whose name is not mentioned in connection with the Auditor of State. The presentation speech was made by A. J.

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Valparaiso, Nov. 22.—It is affirmed that the Radical adherents of Ballmaecidia, who were named delegates by the various departments, will not assist in the convention to be held here to-day. It is also stated that many high officers are responsible for fraudulent appointments, which have given rise to inquiries in the chambers. The Ballmaecidis are said to be completely discredited.

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